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Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to the statement of the President of the Security Council of 31 October 2001 (S/PRST/2001/30) in which the Council requested me to submit quarterly reports on the situation in Somalia. The report covers developments since my last report dated 16 July 2008 (S/2008/466) and focuses, in particular, on the internal political developments and the ongoing efforts to implement the Djibouti agreement reached between the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia. The report includes relevant information on peacebuilding efforts, an update on the security, humanitarian and human rights situation, as well as operational activities of United Nations agencies and programmes in Somalia. It also provides details on the status of contingency planning for the possible deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation, as well as an update on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1816 (2008) on piracy and armed robbery, as requested in paragraph 13 of that resolution.

II. Main developments in Somalia

A. Political developments

2. Since my last report, there have been a number of significant political developments in Somalia. Key among them, was the decision by Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein to dismiss the Mayor of Mogadishu and Governor of Benadir Region, Mohammed Dheere, on 29 July on charges of mismanagement of public funds. Following the dismissal of Mr. Dheere, 10 Cabinet members allied to President Abdullahi Yusuf resigned on 2 August in protest. President Yusuf subsequently reinstated the Mayor which exacerbated tensions within the Government. The Prime Minister in turn, nominated five new ministers and a deputy minister on 3 August to replace those who had resigned.

3. In a bid to break the deadlock, the leadership of the Transitional Federal Government — the President, the Prime Minister and the Speaker of Parliament — met in Addis Ababa on 25 August, where they reached an agreement under the auspices of the Ethiopian Government. The Addis Ababa agreement provides for the reconstitution of the Benadir regional administration within 15 days of signing the agreement; the proper collection and administration of revenue; capacity-building for the Ministry of Finance, customs, airport and seaport administrations, and the

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redeployment of Ethiopian troops outside the capital following the reconstitution of the Benadir regional administration.

4. On 27 August, Prime Minister Hussein announced to Parliament that a 12-member committee would be established to work on the reform of the Benadir regional administration as provided for in the Addis Ababa agreement signed on 25 August. The motion of "no confidence" tabled on 25 August in Parliament against the Prime Minister was defeated on 1 September by a vote of 191 members out of the 200 members present.

5. While the Addis Ababa agreement appears to have eased tensions within the Executive, members of the Transitional Federal Parliament voted against the reinstatement of the cabinet members who had resigned on 6 September. Consequently, the Speaker formed a Committee of Parliament to examine the issue. The Committee reported to Parliament, upholding its earlier decision not to reinstate the ministers who had resigned. Parliament endorsed the Committee's recommendation on 24 September.

6. During this period of internal tensions within the Transitional Federal Government, my Special Representative Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, remained in close contact with the leadership of the Government, encouraging them to work together to resolve their differences peacefully. With regard to the Djibouti agreement, I am pleased to report that there has been significant progress in the political discussions between the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia towards its implementation. From 16 to 19 August, delegations of the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia met in Djibouti, where they endorsed the terms of reference of the High-Level Committee and the Joint Security Committee provided for in articles 8 and 9 of the Djibouti agreement. To trigger the implementation of the agreement, a technical signing of the document took place on 19 August 2008, in the presence of members of the international community.

7. The Joint Security Committee is co-chaired by the United Nations and the African Union, and its meetings are attended by commanders of the security forces of the Transitional Federal Government and field commanders of the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia, whose Commander-in-Chief, Omar Hershi, leads the delegation. The broad responsibilities of the Joint Security Committee include: (a) recommending the modalities and time frame of the phased withdrawal of Ethiopian forces; (b) implementing a cessation of armed confrontation between the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia; (c) establishing a joint force of the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia to, inter alia, observe, verify and monitor compliance with the agreement, facilitate unimpeded humanitarian access and assistance, including the protection of humanitarian aid workers and investigate reported breaches in the agreement. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), is expected to play an important role in that regard. The Joint Security Committee would also find appropriate peaceful solutions in the event of a breach of the agreement. In addition, the Committee shall prepare recommendations for the restructuring and reform of the Somali armed forces. It is envisaged that, working closely with the joint Somali security force, AMISOM would assist in the monitoring and verification of the ceasefire; bridge the gap before the deployment of an international stabilization force; provide VIP protection to both parties; secure

the main lines of communication especially at the airport, in the K4 area and the seaport; train and build the capacity of the Somali security force, in particular, the police. The African Union is in the process of deploying a police component to AMISOM for that purpose. As indicated in paragraph 12 below, AMISOM is expected to fill any security vacuum that may be created by the withdrawal of Ethiopian forces and before the arrival of an international stabilization force.

8. At the end of the first meeting, the leaders of the two delegations to the Joint Security Committee signed a final communiqué on 18 August 2008, paragraph 8 of which calls for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force. Members of the Joint Security Committee also agreed on various modalities for the implementation of the Committee's mandate. These include: (a) observing a ceasefire and cessation of hostilities between the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia; (b) disengaging combatants of the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia; (c) facilitating the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force, establishing liaison between the two parties, as well as preventing armed confrontation between them, ensuring proper behaviour and conduct of the Somali armed forces with regard to the observation of human rights and standards, and demolishing all illegal checkpoints that hinder the smooth transportation of humanitarian aid.

9. The second meeting of the Joint Security Committee was held in Djibouti from 17 to 19 September. As agreed earlier, members of the Committee focused on planning for the implementation of the cessation of armed confrontation, as a first step towards a full-scale ceasefire, the time frame and locations of the withdrawal of Ethiopian forces from the country, and the possible formation of a joint security force.

10. The Committee drafted an agreed ceasefire declaration and an implementation document. The parties requested more time from the Chair to consult their respective constituencies, particularly the commanders of fighting forces on the ground, before signing the two documents. A communiqué issued at the end of the meeting on 21 September, indicated that members of the Joint Security Committee were given 15 days to carry out consultations before proceeding with joint sessions to finalize detailed military modalities, pending the issuance of the ceasefire declaration.

11. To strengthen the capacity of delegates to the Joint Security Committee to develop feasible ceasefire modalities, a training session for members of the Committee was organized by the United Nations in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes from 9 to 17 October in Cape Town, South Africa. The workshop also provided an opportunity to build trust and confidence among the participants. A separate workshop is planned for members of the High-Level Committee in Durban, tentatively, from 6 to 10 November 2008.

12. The third round of talks in Djibouti represents yet another step forward in the peace process. The Somali parties signed an agreement on the cessation of armed confrontation on 26 October, which sets out the following: (a) a ceasefire shall become effective on 5 November; (b) the relocation of Ethiopian troops from parts of Mogadishu and Beletweyne will commence on 21 November and will be completed in accordance with the terms of the Djibouti agreement; (c) AMISOM forces, with the assistance of joint Somali security forces, will provide security in

areas vacated by Ethiopian troops. To further entrench the peace process, the parties have agreed that the Joint Security Committee shall operate from within Somalia by the end of November.

13. The High-Level Committee, which is chaired by the United Nations, is focused on political cooperation, including discussions on the inclusion of the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia in a future government, or as a formal opposition group. Issues such as the development of a new constitution, justice and reconciliation, structured management of the humanitarian crisis, and a public campaign aimed at mobilizing Somali support to the Djibouti agreement are also high on the Committee's agenda. A number of joint subcommittees have been established to detail proposals for adoption at a later meeting.

14. On 28 October, my Special Representative, addressed the 29th Extraordinary Meeting of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Council of Ministers, held in Nairobi, on the situation in Somalia. The meeting was convened by IGAD member States to consult with the transitional federal institutions on the situation in Somalia. At the conclusion of the meeting, on 29 October, the IGAD member States issued a communiqué in which they: urged the Somali parties to implement the agreement on the cessation of armed confrontation, signed on 26 October in good faith; requested that the Transitional Federal Government appoint a new cabinet and establish a new Banadir Administration within 15 days from the date of the communiqué, finalize the drafting of the constitution and enact an electoral and political parties' law within six months of the date of the communiqué. IGAD member States agreed to establish a Facilitator to help monitor the implementation of its decisions, receive progress reports on the implementation of those decisions and to meet every six months to review progress made on their implementation.

Other developments

15. In "Somaliland", preparations continue for the upcoming presidential elections on 29 March 2009. The authorities have launched a nationwide media campaign for the voter registration process. All parties registered to participate in the elections have reiterated their commitment to uphold the rule of law and the constitution and maintain peace and stability. The main opposition party, Peace, Unity and Development Party (KULMIYE), elected its nominees for the positions of President and Vice-President on 25 August 2008. The ruling National Democratic Union Party and the Justice and Welfare Party are both preparing for their conventions to select candidates.

16. There are, however, concerns that the prevailing peace and stability in "Somaliland" could be derailed by the severe economic crisis caused by the persistent drought throughout Somalia and the alarming global rise in food and petroleum prices. There is also fear that human trafficking in the region, as well as rising acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships, pose a serious threat to stability.

17. The presidential and parliamentary elections in "Puntland" are scheduled for 9 January 2009. The 66 members of the "Puntland" Parliament, who will be selected by their clan elders through regional quotas, will then elect the President and Vice-President by secret ballot.

locations throughout the country. Regrettably, the fighting has resulted in a heavy loss of civilian lives. It is anticipated that results of the recently signed agreement on the cessation of armed hostilities will yield positive results in the coming weeks to underpin the progress made thus far in the political process.

24. Beletweyne, a strategic town in the Hiran Region, has been evacuated by the Ethiopian Armed Forces as a result of discussions with Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia fighters on the ground following the signing of the Djibouti agreement. The Transitional Federal Government does not have the capacity to defend and control the entire country, as its security apparatus lacks adequate equipment and training to effectively contain armed elements. This is compounded by its inability since January 2008 to pay salaries to the national police and troops. This has led to an erosion of morale among government forces, leading to desertions and the illegal sale of weapons. The international community which hitherto supported the Transitional Federal Government in maintaining its security, especially the national police, has withheld support, due to allegations of human rights violations by some government forces, and the lack of transparency and accountability for the funding provided. Given the significance of security issues, it is essential that security institutions in Somalia be strengthened through the provision of necessary resources. Failure to adequately address sustainable support for the security sector will only serve to strengthen the position of those who are opposed to peace. About 40 per cent of the police officers trained by the United Nations have left the police force, owing to the lack of payment of salaries.

25. The activities of the United Nations are increasingly threatened by the fighting in Somalia. The United Nations common compound in Baidoa has experienced near misses during mortar attacks by the various groups. Mortar attacks on airfields and numerous roadblocks within Somalia prevent humanitarian workers from both the United Nations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from discharging their duties, and sometimes leave them stranded in unsafe locations when not taken by force. United Nations and NGOs, national and international personnel in Somalia, including private individuals and organizations contracted for their services by those organizations have increasingly become direct targets for armed groups. The suicide bomb attack against the office of the United Nations Development Programme in Hargeisa on 29 October, where two staff members were killed, illustrates the escalating danger.

26. I am deeply concerned about the security and safety of United Nations personnel, especially national personnel who have become targets of assassinations and kidnappings in their own communities. Many Somali United Nations staff and their families have been relocated from their duty stations to other locations within Somalia following the circulation of a list of names of individuals targeted for assassination by anti-government elements offering cash for their assassination.

27. There are also indications that those opposed to the Transitional Federal Government and acting as the core of Al-Shabaab movement may steer a more radical course. There is, therefore, a growing risk for United Nations staff being targeted in another major terrorist attack in Somalia or at the United Nations office premises in Nairobi. The threat of attack issued by Al-Shabaab against all flights into Mogadishu International Airport, from 16 September 2008, and the subsequent mortar attack on an aircraft at that airport, points to the significant deterioration of the security situation in Mogadishu.

28. Contingency plans for the relocation of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) and the United Nations country team to Somalia, outlined in my previous report, are yet to be implemented, as none of the mitigating factors to reduce threats to security are at an acceptable level. Under current conditions, the relocation of UNPOS can only proceed with the parallel deployment of an appropriate security dynamic. An inter-agency headquarters team to support planning for the relocation of the Office and the United Nations country team was deployed from Headquarters to Nairobi between 28 and 31 October. That mission has resulted in the development of strategic guidance which has fed into a concept of operations for the relocation of the Office and the country team to Somalia. The Department of Field Support and the Department of Safety and Security are planning the relocation of the Office based on this concept of operations.

29. In its presidential statement issued on 4 September (S/PRST/2008/33), the Security Council recalled the ongoing contingency planning for a United Nations integrated peacekeeping mission in Somalia, which envisages that plans be put in place for the deployment of an international stabilization force, within the framework of the approach presented in my report of 14 March 2008 (S/2008/178 and Corr.1 and 2). The Security Council also reaffirmed its willingness, as set out in its resolution 1814 (2008), to consider, at an appropriate time, a United Nations peacekeeping operation to take over from AMISOM, subject to progress in the political process and improvement in the security situation on the ground.

30. In that regard, the Council requested me, within 60 days, to: (a) elaborate on my contingency plans and provide a detailed and consolidated description of a feasible multinational force, its mandate and derived tasks, to include, inter alia, its size and geographical scope; (b) provide a detailed concept of operations for a feasible United Nations peacekeeping operation; and (c) identify and approach States that might contribute the required financial resources, personnel, equipment and services. The Council also expressed its readiness to support me in carrying out those tasks.

1. Multinational force

31. In response to the Council's request, I tasked the Department for Peacekeeping Operations to develop the concept of a feasible international stabilization force to support the implementation of the Djibouti agreement, taking into account the presence of AMISOM. As the Council is aware, AMISOM is currently deployed with some 3,450 troops, and is securing the airport, seaport and a critical road junction in Mogadishu, while also conducting patrols in the vicinity of the airport. It would be important for the design of any multinational force to take account of existing AMISOM capacity to ensure a coherent and effective presence on the ground.

32. To this end, a team from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations visited Addis Ababa in September to develop a consolidated description of an international stabilization force jointly with the African Union. Following those consultations and further development of the description by the Office of Military Affairs, it is proposed that a feasible international stabilization force would be composed of a headquarters and two multinational force brigades which should operate under unified command. One of the brigades could be a reinforced AMISOM; if this is not possible, or not supported by the lead nation, then a second multinational force brigade would be required. The core mandate of the international stabilization force

would be to provide a first phase of support to the implementation of the Djibouti agreement, helping the parties to establish a secure environment and create conditions for the deployment, at a later stage, of a multidimensional United Nations peacekeeping operation.

33. The area of operations for the international stabilization force would be limited to Mogadishu. Its key tasks would include securing strategic installations in the city, in particular the airport and seaport; monitoring and verifying the orderly withdrawal of the Ethiopian Armed Forces from Mogadishu, in line with the Djibouti agreement; and facilitating the relocation of elements of UNPOS and the United Nations country team to Mogadishu.

34. In cooperation with the Joint Security Committee established under the Djibouti agreement, the international stabilization force would monitor the ceasefire and help to establish a secure environment in Mogadishu.

35. The international stabilization force would adopt a phased approach. Phase One would see deployment of the multinational force to Mogadishu. Given the security conditions, one option would be to do this from a maritime base (see "international stabilization force capacities", below). In parallel, AMISOM would be reinforced to enable it to secure the Mogadishu airport, seaport and surrounding area, to a range beyond the reach of mortar attacks.

36. In Phase Two, the international stabilization force would monitor and verify withdrawal of the Ethiopian Armed Forces from Mogadishu. This should take place in an orderly and coordinated way, with the departing forces handing over to the international stabilization force, in order to avoid a security vacuum. AMISOM and multinational force contingents would be responsible for different sectors of the city, but would operate under unified international stabilization force command. Once the stabilization force has reached full operational capability, discussions would begin with UNPOS, Ethiopia and the parties to the Djibouti agreement on arrangements for the withdrawal of remaining Ethiopian forces from the rest of Somalia.

37. In Phase Three, the international stabilization force would focus on stabilization operations within Mogadishu, to create space for the Transitional Federal Government to consolidate its authority. The force, working with the committees established under the Djibouti agreement, and in coordination with the envisaged joint Somali security force, would monitor the anticipated ceasefire agreement and build confidence through joint patrols. AMISOM components in the seaport area would play an important role in helping to safeguard the delivery of humanitarian aid. During this phase, the force would also support relocation of the United Nations to Mogadishu and facilitate the conduct of a United Nations technical assessment mission.

38. In Phase Four, subject to political progress and improvements in the security situation, and following a Security Council resolution, the international stabilization force transition to a United Nations multidimensional peacekeeping operation would occur. This handover should take place only following the establishment of a credible, inclusive ceasefire agreement. Transfer of authority from the international stabilization force to the United Nations would be undertaken when the United Nations mission headquarters and a sufficient number of operational and enabling troops had deployed and reached initial operating capability.

International stabilization force capabilities

39. Owing to the very complex and hostile environment on the ground, it is essential that the multinational force be a highly capable, self-sustaining, expeditionary force with full capability to defend itself against hostile threats. The design of the force would, of course, be the prerogative of the lead nation. According to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations estimates, the strength required would be approximately two brigades, not including AMISOM components; however, force capacity is of greater importance than numerical strength.

40. The force would require capacity to conduct foot and vehicle patrols, including with protected mobility, supported by a quick reaction force with both air and ground capacity. It would require attack aviation that could be used to escort road convoys; engage or pursue technical vehicles; or escort ships into port. Transport helicopters would be required to airlift the quick reaction force unit, conduct medical evacuations, airlift supplies, and transport other personnel associated with the mission of the force. This force would also need to be logistically self-sustaining.

41. As outlined in my earlier report (S/2008/178 and Corr.1 and 2), the multinational force would require the capacity and training to defend itself robustly, but also to use force precisely, using the minimum force necessary and limiting collateral damage. Excessive use of force and collateral damage affecting civilians would be likely to attract retaliation and undermine the objectives of the mission.

42. Finally, dedicated maritime capacity would be required to support land-based operations. This would be particularly important for the multinational force during its deployment phase, allowing it to use maritime assets as a springboard from which to establish its presence in the area of operations. Continued capacity would be needed to facilitate the replenishment of supplies and secure humanitarian delivery. It would, of course, be important to coordinate these maritime operations with the ongoing activities being undertaken by Member States in respect of Security Council resolutions 1816 (2008) and 1838 (2008).

43. It is envisaged that AMISOM would need to build up to a strength of at least five capable battalions, each with at least one mechanized company to act as a quick reaction force or battalion reserve. Key additional requirements would be significant armoured vehicle capability; radio and tactical level communications, compatible with the international stabilization force; mortar-locating radar; capability to protect against improvised explosive devices; enhanced engineering equipment; enhanced inshore patrol boat capability; mapping support; and logistic and medical support, including funding and staff for a level II hospital. This would require additional support from donors and partners, and potentially from troop-contributing countries outside the African Union, under the auspices of the international stabilization force. To the extent possible, it would be advantageous to ensure that AMISOM contingents are deployed in line with United Nations standards, to facilitate any future transition to a United Nations peacekeeping mission.

Deployment timeline

44. Timelines for deployment would clearly depend upon the capacity of the contributing nations and developments on the ground. As an indication, the

Department of Peacekeeping Operations estimates that a feasible international stabilization force could reach initial operating capability (i.e., complete Phase One) within six months. Withdrawal of the Ethiopian Forces (Phase Two), should take place in parallel with continued build-up of the international stabilization force to full operational capacity. Stabilization operations could then commence in earnest.

Command and control

45. A unified, single command and control structure would be critical to the success of the international stabilization force. It is envisaged that the lead nation of the force would provide the Force Commander, with the AMISOM Force Commander serving as his deputy. Key international stabilization force headquarters posts would be filled by the lead nation, absorbing AMISOM staff, as this would ensure the greatest level of interoperability at the staff level. At the operational level, AMISOM and the multinational force would retain their own integral chains of command and operate in distinct sectors within Mogadishu.

46. Although the operational concept will be developed in detail by the international stabilization force lead nation, in conjunction with AMISOM, it is envisaged that AMISOM would operate in the south-eastern sector of the city, with responsibility for the security of the airport and seaport, and the coastal regions of Mogadishu, leaving the north-eastern districts for the multinational force. Other options could include a north or south lateral division of the city parallel with the coast.

2. United Nations peacekeeping operation

47. The contingency planning for a feasible United Nations peacekeeping operation has been reviewed to take into account the evolving situation on the ground and the envisaged development of an international stabilization force. The concept of operations for the peacekeeping operation envisages 22,500 troops, operating in five brigade-sized sectors throughout southern and central Somalia. This would be accompanied by an appropriate police and civilian component. The force would include a maritime and aviation task force to support the land-based operations.

48. It is envisaged that the United Nations operation would establish itself first in Mogadishu, taking over from the international stabilization force after the establishment of a credible and inclusive ceasefire agreement. As the peacekeeping operation builds up to full strength, it would expand its deployment progressively to the rest of Somalia, taking account of developments on the ground.

49. The major tasks for the peacekeeping operation would include creating a safe and secure environment for the rebuilding and restoration of Somalia's State institutions throughout the country; securing key installations, including ports of entry and key routes; providing security for United Nations personnel and assets; creating a safe and secure environment for the delivery of humanitarian aid; protecting civilians; assisting in the clearance and disposal of explosives; supporting an appropriate form of disarmament and demobilization for former combatants, or related programmes, such as weapons control and community reintegration, including, where required, the collection, cataloguing, security and storage of weapons; supporting reform of the security sector; and assisting in the creation of

conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons and refugees.

50. More detailed planning for the United Nations operation would require a comprehensive technical assessment mission to visit key towns and sites within Somalia, ascertain the scope of the mission and the infrastructure required to support it. As most of southern and central Somalia is presently at United Nations Security phase IV, and Mogadishu at phase V, it will not be possible to send a technical assessment mission to Somalia until after the international stabilization force has stabilized Mogadishu. This is envisaged to occur in the third phase of the international stabilization force mission. Preparation and deployment of the mission to Mogadishu would be undertaken in the light of future Security Council decisions and developments on the ground. When the transfer of authority for Mogadishu from the international stabilization force to the United Nations is complete, the peacekeeping operation would then undertake a phased deployment into other key areas in southern and central Somalia.

3. Required funding and capabilities

51. At my direction, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations prepared a list of countries that are considered to have the capacity to provide a lead contingent, troops, funding or equipment for the envisaged multinational force. The countries were identified on the basis of an objective technical assessment conducted by the Department's Office of Military Affairs. In preparing the list, the Department also sought suggestions from all members of the Security Council and from UNPOS.

52. In my bilateral meetings during the general debate of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, I raised the matter with the leaders of some of the identified countries, and one international organization. I made it clear that conditions in Somalia at present called for a multinational force, rather than a United Nations peacekeeping operation. The responses were mixed. Most leaders expressed some readiness to look into the request, while several expressed interest in participating in the multinational force. I subsequently dispatched letters to the leaders of all the identified countries, appealing to them to play the lead nation role, or to pledge troops, funds or equipment for the force, and indicating that I was required to report to the Security Council by 4 November. Once I receive the formal responses to my letters, I will be in a position to determine and advise the Council on whether or not the multinational force will materialize. In the event that it does not materialize, I would submit alternative proposals for the Council's consideration.

C. Actions in support of Security Council resolutions 1816 (2008) and 1838 (2008)

53. The growing incidence of piracy and armed robbery against ships off the coast of Somalia is another source of serious concern. Since my last report (S/2008/466), nearly a dozen ships, each carrying approximately 200 crew members, were hijacked off the coast of Somalia, particularly in the sea area bordering "Puntland". The increased capacity with which the pirates are conducting themselves poses a huge challenge to the freedom of trade and navigation in the area. In its resolution 1816 (2008), the Security Council requested States cooperating with the Transitional Federal Government on matters of piracy and armed robbery at sea to inform the

Security Council within three months of the progress of actions undertaken in respect of that resolution. The Council also requested me to report on the situation within five months. I have reminded Member States cooperating with the Transitional Federal Government of their undertaking to report in this regard and will forward their responses to the Council as soon as they are received.

54. To date, the Secretariat has received confirmation from the Permanent Mission of Somalia to the United Nations that the following countries are cooperating with the Transitional Federal Government in respect of fighting piracy: Canada, Denmark, France, India, the Russian Federation, Spain and the United States of America. The Secretariat has also received letters from Canada, Denmark, France, Spain and the United States confirming that they have already deployed maritime units off the coast of Somalia to fight piracy and armed robbery against ships, in keeping with resolution 1816 (2008).

55. Specifically, on 22 August, the United States led the establishment of a maritime security patrol area in international waters off the Somali coast. The area, which is intended to act as a buffer between the Somali coast and the shipping lanes off southern Yemen, is patrolled by three United States vessels, as well as vessels from Canada, France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Meanwhile, Canada and the Netherlands have been supporting the World Food Programme by providing a naval escort to ships carrying food aid from Mombasa, Kenya, to Mogadishu. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has deployed seven ships from its Standing Maritime Group 2 to take on the anti-piracy role off the coast of Somalia. The mission of Group 2, which comprises ships from Germany, Greece, Italy, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States, is primarily to protect ships carrying humanitarian aid, as well as eligible merchant vessels.

56. On 15 September, the European Union General Affairs Council established a coordination unit tasked with supporting the surveillance and protection activities carried out by some European Union member States off the coast of Somalia. The General Affairs Council approved a plan for implementing the military coordination action, which will comprise a coordination cell based in London. It also approved a strategic military option regarding a possible European Union naval operation, which the European Union intends to launch by December 2008.

57. The growing number of Member States and organizations undertaking maritime operations off the Somali coast will require greater coordination. The European Union has proposed that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations play a role in that regard. Discussions should continue on the specifics of assistance required and resource implications.

58. The activities of individuals engaged in acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships off the coast of Somalia are weakening the Transitional Federal Government and the "Puntland" authorities. Since January 2008, about 65 merchant ships, with about 200 crew members each, have been hijacked off the coast of Somalia, particularly in the sea area bordering "Puntland". It is estimated that, since the beginning of 2008, between 25 and 30 million United States dollars has been paid in ransom to pirates. Federal and local authorities are victims of this surge in piracy and armed robbery against ships and do not have the well-equipped speedboats, communications equipment nor high-powered firearms that are required to fight the attacks of pirates. A challenge associated with piracy is the identification

of detention facilities in which to hold those individuals apprehended for acts of piracy or armed robbery against ships and the determination of jurisdictions within which to try them. The delivery of relief goods has become more expensive and more dangerous, owing to the imminent and high risk of piracy off the Somali coastline, as well as road checkpoints by rogue freelance and clan militias.

III. African Union Mission in Somalia

59. Since 21 September 2008, there have been unprecedented and unprovoked attacks against AMISOM positions; these were preceded by a spate of similar hostilities against AMISOM troops a week earlier, in which the peacekeepers lost two soldiers and four sustained injuries. There were also several attacks against AMISOM positions in August and one soldier was killed.

60. To date, of the authorized strength of 8,000 troops, AMISOM consists of two Burundian battalions and two Ugandan battalions, which make a total of 3,400 troops in Mogadishu. The second Burundian battalion was deployed to Somalia between 11 and 13 October. In order to reach its mandated level of nine battalions, a mission headquarters staff of 70 international staff and 67 police, AMISOM estimates that it will require approximately $200 million for the period from January to December 2009, excluding bilateral support to troops.

61. As I noted in my last report, the United Nations Secretariat is working closely with the African Union to strengthen the AMISOM planning unit in Addis Ababa. I therefore call upon the international community to extend, without delay, financial and logistical assistance for AMISOM, in support of the implementation of the Djibouti agreement.

IV. Activities of the United Nations and the international community

62. In this critical period leading to the implementation of the Djibouti agreement, the United Nations Political Office for Somalia continued its efforts to mobilize the international community with a view to developing a common approach to addressing the challenges facing Somalia. On 16 September, the International Contact Group on Somalia met in Djibouti for the first time under the chairmanship of my Special Representative to discuss the situation in Somalia. Those participating in the discussions included representatives of the African Union, the European Commission, the European Union Council secretariat, the Presidency of the European Union (France), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the World Bank, Canada, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Italy, Kenya, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. The meeting was also addressed by the representatives of the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia, who attended the session as a joint delegation.

63. The International Contact Group welcomed the signing of the Djibouti agreement and the establishment of the High-Level Committee and the Joint Security Committee. Members of the Contact Group urged the parties to the Djibouti agreement to agree on concrete measures for implementing the cessation of

armed confrontation and to allow the timely withdrawal of Ethiopian forces and the deployment of the stabilization force requested in the Djibouti agreement. The Contact Group also expressed its full support for the implementation of agreements reached in the meetings of the Committees.

64. The meeting of the Contact Group condemned the continuing violence in Somalia, especially against women and children. It also condemned attacks against humanitarian workers and called upon all parties to immediately cease hostilities and allow free and unhindered access for humanitarian aid. The Contact Group welcomed the political cooperation between the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia and called upon all Somalis, at home and abroad, to fully support the Djibouti agreement. It expressed its determination to support the consolidation of this cooperation. The Group urged all parties to join the political process to quickly restore peace and stability to Somalia, and emphasized that no individuals or groups should be allowed to obstruct the peace process. It welcomed the commitment to convene an international conference on the reconstruction and development of Somalia, as agreed in the Djibouti agreement, and stated its willingness to immediately engage in the required preparatory work. It urged the parties to work through the Committees provided for in the Djibouti agreement and to urgently agree on plans and mechanisms to support the delivery of much needed humanitarian assistance in consultation with humanitarian partners.

65. On 20 and 21 October 2008, in Stockholm, the Government of Sweden hosted a preparatory meeting for an International Donor Conference on Recovery and Development for Somalia, which is provided for in article 11 of the Djibouti agreement. My Special Representative chaired the meeting, which was attended by representatives of the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia and the donor community. The meeting reviewed the current political, security and humanitarian situation in Somalia in order to develop a common strategy for addressing the relevant issues in 2009. It established that Somalia is currently in a "pre-recovery" stage that precedes traditional recovery and development assistance. It was agreed at the Stockholm meeting that, as a matter of priority, existing and additional resources must be marshalled to support peacemaking and efforts towards the consolidation of peace. While many donors reaffirmed the availability of funding to support the implementation of the Djibouti agreement, they were also looking for signs that demonstrated the credibility of the peace process.

66. The United Nations country team has scaled up the implementation of the United Nations transition plan, as part of its efforts to increase support for its ongoing humanitarian activities, particularly in "Somaliland" and "Puntland". The country team held mid-year reviews in Hargeisa and Garowe, jointly with government partners, donors, multilateral institutions and non-governmental organizations to improve coordination and strengthen accountability for the implementation of the transition plan.

67. As at 1 October, approximately US$ 164.7 million has been mobilized for recovery and development activities across Somalia, representing 58 per cent of what is required to meet the United Nations transition plan targets for 2008. During the present reporting period, a programme risk assessment was undertaken to define the additional measures required to ensure that United Nations operations continue

in a safe and secure manner across Somalia and are increased where possible. At the same time, the United Nations transition plan is being implemented in a balanced manner that supports both the Somali people and Somali institutions and, as such, funds are being allocated across five strategic outcomes, namely: institution-building; local governance and decentralized service delivery; rule of law; basic services; and livelihoods. Implementation of a communications strategy is ongoing to provide information to the public on the work of the United Nations in the country.

V. Humanitarian situation

68. The humanitarian situation in Somalia continues to deteriorate drastically. According to the latest food security assessment, carried out in August 2008, the number of people in need of livelihood and humanitarian support has increased by 77 per cent, from 1.8 million to 3.2 million people since January 2008. The total figure includes an estimated 2.1 million people in rural and urban areas who do not have enough food and are selling assets in order to buy food. There are some 870,000 newly displaced persons (since March 2007), and an estimated 275,000 long-term or protracted internally displaced persons. An estimated 85 per cent of the rural populations in need of humanitarian assistance are in Lower and Middle Shabelle and the central regions of Mudug, Galgaduud and Hiraan.

69. One in six children under the age of five is acutely malnourished, and the number continues to increase. Rates of malnutrition in most parts of south-central Somalia are above the emergency threshold level of 15 per cent, and in many areas are now higher than 20 per cent and are increasing. The situation has been exacerbated by drought and high food prices, coupled with the collapse of the Somali currency and continuing instability. This has left many Somali families without the means to afford even the most basic needs for survival, such as food, water and shelter.

70. The humanitarian crisis is no longer limited to south-central Somalia, and is now expanding to the relatively stable north, where at least 350,000 persons are in need of humanitarian assistance or livelihood support. Since this is occurring in areas that are not experiencing active conflict, it shows the complexity of the situation, which is creating a countrywide crisis.

71. The level of insecurity and direct targeting of humanitarian workers render the delivery of humanitarian assistance extremely difficult. Since the beginning of 2008, 29 aid workers have been killed, 19 have been kidnapped and 10 are still held captive. Despite increasing security threats, humanitarian agencies courageously continue to attempt to reach those most in need. Some organizations have scaled down their operations in certain areas of the country, while regrettably, one organization has had to pull out completely.

72. In Afgooye, food aid was distributed to 326,000 persons on a monthly basis. An average of 80,000 persons, mainly women and children, receive cooked rations daily from 16 kitchens in Mogadishu. In total, from June to August 2008, food aid organizations distributed 84,000 tons of food aid commodities to over 2 million beneficiaries. In August 2008, just over half of the planned rations were distributed, as owners of vessels cancelled planned shipments, owing to a gap in naval escorts for humanitarian ships. Some 90 per cent of food shipments to Somalia go by sea

and 150,000 tons is planned to be shipped between October and the end of 2008. Without the naval escorts, the entire humanitarian response in Somalia is jeopardized. There is a funding shortfall of $98 million for food aid from October 2008 to March 2009 and urgent renewed donor contributions are needed to avoid a complete break in the food flow. I am grateful to the Government of Canada for extending its naval support to World Food Programme food shipments until 23 October and to the Government of the Netherlands which has stepped forward to take over from Canada from 23 October to December 2008.

73. In Beletweyne, despite access and security issues, the United Nations and its partners were able to provide blanket feeding for 15,000 children under the age of five and for 1,000 malnourished children, immunize 12,000 children against measles and to reach about 20,000 internally displaced persons with water, hygiene and sanitation activities. United Nations-supported child protection networks operating in the Hiraan region assisted communities in monitoring and identifying children at risk for service referral. United Nations agencies continued to support 40 nutrition feeding centres through the provision of therapeutic and rehabilitation food. From July to September, the United Nations and its partners scaled up the number of feeding programmes throughout Somalia by 30, from 173, in order to respond to the increased nutritional needs of 5,200 severely acute children and 30,000 moderately acute children. In August, a first round of blanket feeding — distribution of UNIMIX-food supplement, rich with vitamins and minerals — was distributed to approximately 7,500 children under the age of five living in 22 Bossaso internally displaced persons camps as well as in Garowe and Galkayo internally displaced persons camps. Along the Afgoye Corridor and in Mogadishu, 55,000 children under the age of five in internally displaced persons camps (close to 90 per cent of all children are under the age of five in this area) received a second round of blanket feeding in August, with a third round scheduled for late September. In addition, the United Nations is supporting about 600 children in four internally displaced persons camps in Jowhar who benefit daily from a cooked supplementary feeding programme.

74. The third and fourth rounds of the polio national immunization days were conducted in July and August 2008. The programme successfully reached 95 per cent of the targeted 1.8 million children under the age of five and involved more than 10,000 volunteers as vaccinators. In Mogadishu and Afgooye internally displaced persons camps, more than 140,000 children between the ages of 9 months and 15 years were vaccinated against measles. The campaign was implemented by a local non-governmental organization, in collaboration with local communities and targeted about 95 per cent of the total population under 15 years old. Measles is a serious health problem in Somalia and a significant cause of child mortality.

75. As seasonal storms in the Gulf of Aden subsided, an increasing number of asylum-seekers, mainly Somalis, arrived on the Yemeni coast. Thus far, more than 28,000 persons, including 19,071 Somalis, have made the dangerous sea journey to Yemen in 2008. An estimated 366 persons died during the journey, and another 239 are missing. From the start of 2008 to 15 September, 45,911 refugees had been registered in Dadaab Refugee Camp, Kenya, of which 43,879 had arrived from Somalia. There are also some 6,000 other persons awaiting registration.

76. Field consultations for the 2009 consolidated appeal process were held in August 2008 in Hargeysa and Garowe. Due to security concerns, the consultations

for the south-central regions were held in Nairobi. The workshop identified three strategic priorities that will guide the planning and implementation on the ground. Only 65 per cent of the 2008 consolidated appeals process for Somalia, in which $646 million was requested, has been funded as of end September. There are major variations in funding levels between sectors, ranging from 9 per cent of the requirement for education to 92 per cent for food aid. Some key sectors, such as health (16 per cent), nutrition (29 per cent), agriculture and livelihoods (24 per cent), and safety and security for staff (8 per cent), need urgent attention if the humanitarian community is to undertake an integrated response and maintain the current level of operations.

77. My Special Humanitarian Envoy, Abdul Aziz Arrukban, undertook a mission to the region in August, with the aim of advocating for the stronger involvement of the Gulf countries in addressing the humanitarian crisis in Somalia. My envoy visited Waajid in south Somalia, and the Dadaab refugee camp in north-eastern Kenya.

VI. Human rights and protection of civilians

78. The human rights situation in Somalia continues to be characterized by indiscriminate violence and frequent attacks against civilians, particularly women and children. In the increased fighting, all armed groups are reported to have committed serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by indiscriminately targeting civilians and using heavy weapons and improvised explosive devices in densely populated areas. According to the Country Task Force created in accordance with Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) to monitoring and reporting, the number of children killed and maimed through indiscriminate attacks, such as roadside bombs and direct targeting, has increased. Reported cases of sexual violence against children have risen from 115 in 2007 to 128 in 2008. Women and children in internally displaced persons settlements are also at a heightened risk of violence. Children and youth in detention centres are often held without due process.

79. Violations of freedom of expression continue to be of concern in all parts of Somalia. Authorities in "Somaliland" and "Puntland" have restricted the freedom of expression in the preparation for the upcoming elections. In south-central Somalia, both sides to the conflict continue to target journalists and human rights defenders with death threats, arbitrary arrests, illegal detention and torture. I am, however, encouraged by the decision of the High-Level Committee established under the Djibouti agreement to consider issues of justice and reconciliation, within the framework of that agreement.

80. The independent expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia visited Somalia, Kenya, Djibouti and Ethiopia from 28 June to 12 July 2008, and presented his findings to the Human Rights Council on 19 September 2008. A technical human rights assessment mission visited the subregion from 19 July to 2 August 2008. Key recommendations of the mission include the need for advocacy for greater accountability and an end to impunity; reform of the security sector including issues related to the development of codes of conduct for the military and the police, in particular through engagement with the Joint Security Committee and High-Level Committee established under the Djibouti agreement. It is proposed that the human

rights presence within UNPOS will therefore support the peace process through human rights monitoring and public reporting, advisory and capacity-building functions, as well as advocacy and awareness-raising. These activities will be conducted in close cooperation with other components of UNPOS, the United Nations country team, civil society, as well as relevant authorities and other actors.

VII. Operational activities to support peace

81. The recent deterioration of security has meant that the United Nations has had to review its programmes, as well as their implementation and modalities. Some operations have been scaled down. Nonetheless, a number of recovery and development initiatives have continued in complement to humanitarian interventions.

Institution-building

82. Progress has been made in support of the constitutional process, particularly in the area of technical support for the Independent Federal Constitution Commission and the Parliamentary Committee for the Constitution. The Independent Federal Constitution Commission initiated a process in August 2008 to build the foundation of training that would lead to improved capacities for the future drafting of the Constitution. Simultaneously, the United Nations has worked towards engaging the parties to the Djibouti process in a dialogue on how to jointly take the constitution-making process forward. The Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia are now actively engaged in these discussions.

83. The Transitional Federal Government continued its work towards agreed benchmarks set out in the start-up package, funded by international partners through the United Nations. The six-month package has provided support for ministries, independent commissions and the Transitional Federal Parliament, in the form of equipment, and the rehabilitation of public buildings.

84. In "Somaliland", 44 new civil servants are currently undertaking training by the Somaliland Civil Service Institute on human resources and budget management In "Somaliland" and "Puntland", planning is under way to support the authorities in a public financial management reform project in collaboration with the World Bank and international partners.

Local governance and decentralized service delivery

85. In south-central Somalia, the district-based peacebuilding process established district and regional councils through a process of reconciliation and community consultations. The initiative continues in the Middle and Lower Shabelle, but is moving slowly, owing to the security situation. Given the deterioration in security in parts of south-central Somalia, the United Nations Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery entered into discussions with the authorities to select districts that could be targeted with the District Basket Fund under the current conditions. Through this process, the targeted districts have been reduced from ten to two, where district participatory planning and investment is possible.

Rule of law and security

86. United Nations support to the Somalia Police Force has emphasized institutional capacity-building, particularly for the creation of internal and external legal oversight mechanisms and accountability. To this end, special training was provided in Uganda to build Somali knowledge and capacity for the development of an internal control unit. Eighty police station commanders from Mogadishu and other parts of south-central Somalia were trained to effectively manage police stations and new recruits.

87. The Mine Action programme in Somalia aims to provide support to national mine action coordination institutions and to create national mine and explosive remnants of war clearance capacities, while concurrently gathering and evaluating impact data and information. The programme is well established in "Somaliland" and "Puntland", and with the successful establishment of the south Central Somalia Mine Action Coordination Centre in Baidoa earlier in 2008, now has full national coverage. Mine Risk Education was provided to over 26,000 recipients in 2008 to September in the five districts around Baidoa alone. A training programme for police explosive ordinance disposal teams has also been productive, with over 40 trainees successfully completing their courses. The ability of the Mine Action Coordination Centre explosive ordinance disposal, medical, survey and mine risk education teams to operate widely in the Baidoa area has demonstrated that options for national capacity-building still remain viable, given the support the programme has received from all actors in the region, although the worsening security situation has prevented the programme from developing to its full potential due to restrictions on international training staff presence. Violent incidents in the area necessitated the temporary evacuation of all international staff in early October, although none of the incidents appeared to be directed deliberately at the Centre.

88. In the justice sector, the United Nations, in partnership with local NGOs, continued to provide free legal aid to vulnerable groups. Despite difficult security conditions, the NGOs worked closely with the locally established Police Advisory Committees in Mogadishu, also supported by the United Nations, to address cases of police detentions exceeding 48 hours. Free legal services clinics have been opened in locations throughout Somalia.

89. The United Nations supported the successful launch of the Somaliland Justice Law No. 36/2007 by Somaliland Ministry of Justice which aims to achieve justice for children by introducing provisions protecting the rights of children in legal proceedings. It establishes various new institutions such as children's courts, children's police, social probation office, children pre-trial detention centres, and children rehabilitation centres in addition to various procedures and processes which are not yet in operation in Somaliland. The United Nations Children's Fund and its partners will continue to provide technical support, as requested by the Somaliland Minister of Justice.

Provision of basic services

90. Improvements in public health are being recorded across Somalia. In southern Somalia, support has focused on enhancing the capacity of basic health providers. In Baidoa and Benadir, hospitals have been supported to provide emergency obstetric care. In addition, 23 service delivery points providing birth spacing, antenatal care, sexual and gender-based violence counselling, sexually transmitted infections

management, HIV prevention and information services, have been rehabilitated or improved across south-central Somalia. In "Puntland", 100 health workers and laboratory technicians were trained in Garowe, Bossaso and Galkayo.

91. United Nations agencies and their partners have enhanced the quality of education through the provision of schools, materials, equipment and the in-service training of teachers and education managers. Women education networks were formed in the Bay, Bakool and Gedo regions, and close to 600 teachers were supported to teach internally displaced children in the Lower and Middle Shabelle, Afgoye and Galgadud. In "Puntland", a mentoring programme for 1,500 teachers on teaching skills is ongoing in all regions. A "Go to school" media campaign on girls' education is also ongoing in the local media, with the aim of improving the rate of enrolment for girls.

Livelihoods

92. In August 2008, the results of the post "Gu" 2008 seasonal assessment, which measures the annual rainfall between mid-April and June, highlighted the continuing and deepening drought affecting pastoralists in the central regions, as well as poor crop production in major grain-producing areas. The "Gu" 2008 cereal production, at 85,000 tons, is the third lowest cereal production since 1995. Together with NGO partners, the United Nations is implementing projects to support the re-establishment of livelihoods in the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors for some 3,000 households displaced by conflict in Mogadishu.

HIV/AIDS and sexual gender-based violence

93. I am pleased to report an increased HIV/AIDS service update through the implementation of an integrated prevention, treatment, care and support approach. As of July 2008, there are 21 voluntary counselling and testing sites and six anti-retroviral treatment sites providing integrated prevention, treatment care and support services throughout Somalia, with two in south-central Somalia, three in "Somaliland" and one in "Puntland". Close to 14,000 patients and 11,000 clients have benefited from these services.

94. With regard to sexual gender-based violence, advocacy and medical response efforts were augmented to halt the number of cases of female genital mutilation and reduce women disabilities linked to the practice. Gender advisers have been placed in the ministries of women's and family affairs in "Puntland" and "Somaliland" to build capacity on gender-related issues.

VIII. Observations

95. I applaud the commitment of the Somali parties to the Djibouti process and the significant progress they have made, as reflected in the agreement on the cessation of armed confrontation signed on 26 October. The undertaking to form a joint security force and to establish a ceasefire is a decisive step towards securing peace and stability. I also welcome the readiness of Ethiopia to withdraw its troops in support of the ceasefire. The expressed intention of the parties to establish a government of national unity is also welcome and I look forward to discussions on the establishment of such a government. The Djibouti agreement remains open to all Somalis. I therefore urge all Somalis to join the ongoing process, implement it

faithfully and commit, unconditionally, to peace. At the same time, the Addis Ababa agreement signed by the leadership of the Transitional Federal Government on 25 August 2008 must be implemented quickly to establish a credible and efficient administration in Mogadishu and its region.

96. With regard to the recent Inter-Governmental Authority on Development meeting, I welcome the support of the Authority's member States to the Somali peace process and transitional federal institutions. My Special Representative will continue to work with the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development to ensure consistent international support to the Somali peace process.

97. The United Nations and the broader international community, especially Somalia's neighbours, stand ready to assist the parties in any way possible and not only to consolidate the gains they have so painstakingly made. In this connection, I welcome the efforts of the International Contact Group on Somalia, which met in Djibouti on the margins of the September round of discussions on the reconciliation process and reaffirmed its readiness to support the implementation of the Djibouti agreement. Progress on the political situation, coupled with improvements in the security environment, will pave the way for the meaningful delivery of much needed humanitarian assistance. This will also create an environment that is conducive to the relocation of the United Nations to Somalia, plans for which are already in place.

98. The deterioration of the security situation, particularly in the south-central regions of the country, poses an immense challenge, not only to the ongoing efforts at reconciliation, but also to the delivery of humanitarian aid and stability in the region. I welcome the commitment of the parties to establish a mechanism to facilitate and support the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Somalia. The United Nations stands ready to provide assistance in this regard.

99. I am, however, deeply concerned about the threats issued by some groups to attack aircraft that operate in and out of Mogadishu International Airport. I call upon armed groups to desist from imposing measures that disrupt air traffic to Somalia and thereby impede the freedom of the people of Somalia to travel in and out of the country.

100. I pay tribute to all the organizations and personnel involved in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Somalia, as they continue to discharge their noble duties in an extremely dangerous and stressful environment. I wish to assure them that the international community is fully aware of the perseverance and the immense sacrifices they make in an effort to better the lives of many suffering people in Somalia.

101. I welcome Security Council resolutions 1816 (2008) and 1838 (2008) on piracy and armed robbery at sea, in which the Council called upon Member States with the capability in the region to work together, in cooperation with the Transitional Federal Government, to deter piracy and armed robbery at sea. I commend the efforts made by Canada, Denmark, France, the Netherlands and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to provide naval escorts for humanitarian vessels, and call upon other Governments to provide similar assistance. I also commend the decision of the European Union to establish a coordination mechanism to facilitate the orderly support by Member States to provide escorts for humanitarian vessels and I call upon other Member States to join in this effort. I

welcome the decisions of the Governments of India and the Russian Federation to cooperate with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia to fight piracy and armed robbery against ships. I call upon the international community to also address, in a pragmatic and effective manner, the legal issues relating to persons apprehended while engaged in acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships. In this regard, the United Nations will continue to work with the International Maritime Organization to monitor the implementation of resolutions 1816 (2008) and 1838 (2008).

102. The African Union Mission in Somalia continues commendably to play a stabilization role in Somalia, particularly in Mogadishu. Its troops deserve our support and encouragement and I condemn any attacks against them. The agreement on the cessation of armed confrontation signed in October places specific responsibilities on AMISOM. I therefore renew my call upon Member States that have pledged troops to AMISOM to deploy their contingents without any further delay. I also call upon the international community to provide financial and logistical support to strengthen AMISOM for the effective execution of its responsibility under the agreement on the cessation of armed confrontation. I welcome the recent deployment by the Government of Burundi of a second battalion of troops to augment the AMISOM forces.

103. Drawing from the past experience of the United Nations in Somalia, I am concerned that the international community's strategy for addressing the multiple threats to regional stability and international peace and security that emanate from Somalia be coherent. It will therefore be imperative to tie together the ongoing anti-piracy operation, the AMISOM operations and the envisaged multinational force in a coordinated effort that effectively addresses both the consequences and the source of the lawlessness in Somalia, which has become a serious threat to international peace and security. As current conditions are not conducive to a United Nations peacekeeping operation, I appeal to Member States to respond positively to my request and pledge troops, funds and equipment for a multinational force.

104. Finally, I would like to express my deep appreciation to my Special Representative for Somalia, who continues to work tirelessly to advance the cause of peace and reconciliation among the people of Somalia. I also pay tribute to all the personnel, both national and international staff, who are working under difficult conditions in the interest of peace. I call upon the Somali parties and Member States to continue to provide support and cooperation to my Special Representative.